

- 1 12. A wrap comprising, an elastomeric band having a width substantially greater than its
2 thickness, a retainer having a body defining a notch for receiving widthwise a portion
3 of said elastomeric band, a band receiving portion of said notch, a first tab extending
4 axially of said retainer over said band receiving portion of said notch and defining a
5 mouth portion of said notch, wherein said mouth portion has a width less than the
6 width of said elastomeric band.

- 1 15. The wrap of claim 14, wherein said first and second notches are symmetrical about
2 an axis of said body of said retainer.

Add new claims 21-30, as follows:

- 1 - 21. A wrap comprising a continuous elastomeric band having a substantial width to
2 thickness ratio, a retainer having an elongate body including a notch for receiving
3 widthwise a portion of said elastomeric band, a band receiving portion of said notch
4 extending transversely of said elongate body, a first tab extending axially over said
5 band receiving portion of said notch and defining a mouth portion of said notch, said
6 mouth portion having a width less than the width of said elastomeric band.

- 1 22. A wrap of claim 21, wherein said body has a second tab extending axially toward but
2 spaced from said first tab to define said mouth portion.

- 1 23. The wrap of claim 21 further comprising, a second notch located substantially
2 diametrically opposite said first notch.

- 1 24. The wrap of claim 23, wherein said first and second notches are symmetrical about
2 an axis of said body of said retainer.

- 1 25. The wrap of claim 21 further comprising, a second tab extending from said body
2 portion opposite said first tab, wherein said mouth portion is defined between said
3 first and second tabs.

- 1 26. The wrap of claim 25, wherein said first and second tabs extend equidistantly from
2 said body portion to define a substantially T-shaped notch.
- 1 27. The wrap of claim 25, further comprising a second notch having a mouth defined by
2 at least one tab that is less than the width of said elastomeric band, whereby one
3 portion of said elastomeric band is received within said first notch and another portion
4 of said elastomeric band is received in said second notch and radially retained by the
5 respective tabs.
- 1 28. The wrap of claim 21, wherein said retainer is substantially cylindrical.
- 1 29. The wrap of claim 21, wherein said notch is located substantially medially of said
2 elongate body.
- 1 30. A wrap comprising, an elastomeric band adapted to be folded over to form a first end
2 and a second end, an elongate retainer having a body defining a notch for receiving
3 widthwise said first end of said elastomeric band, a slot in said retainer located inward
4 thereof, and a mouth portion communicating with said slot and opening externally of
5 the retainer, said mouth portion having a width less than the width of the elastomeric
6 band, wherein said first end with said retainer is receivable in said second end and
7 held by said retainer to prevent separation of said first end and said second end. —

REMARKS

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, the Applicant affirms the election of the claims directed to a wrap comprising an elastomer band and a retainer, namely, claims 12-20. Claims 1-11 are cancelled hereinabove subject to the right to timely file a divisional application to that subject matter.

With respect to the § 112 rejection of claim 15, the Applicant has amended the claim, as suggested by the Examiner, to depend from a claim having all requisite antecedents.